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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth Session
Item 120 of the provisional agenda*
Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2001
Agenda item 14 (b)
Social and human rights questions: social development

Draft proposal and plan for a United Nations literacy decade

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which, at its one hundred and fifty-ninth session, in May 2000, unanimously welcomed General Assembly resolution 54/122 of 17 December 1999, including the suggestion to proclaim a United Nations literacy decade, examined the draft proposal and plan for a United Nations literacy decade (see A/56/114-E/2001/93) at its one hundred and sixty-first session, in June 2001. During the debate, the Board in particular emphasized the need to mobilize financial resources for the success of such a decade as well as the need for national strategies for literacy to achieve the 2015 Education for All goals. The Executive Board adopted a decision (161 EX/Decision 3.2.1) in which it recognized the urgent need for refocusing in a global and concerted manner on literacy as an integral component of Education for All and authorized the Director-General of UNESCO to submit the draft plan of action to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Economic and Social Council. Recalling the commitments made at the World Education Forum, held in Dakar in April 2000, and acknowledging the centrality of literacy to basic education, lifelong learning and social development, the Executive Board also appealed to the Member States to support the item on a United Nations literacy decade at the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

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